



LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Achievement

COMMISSIONERS

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Vice Chair

Steven M. Olivas, Esq.
Vice Chair

Stacey Savelle
Vice Chair

Carol O. Biondi
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Helen A. Kleinberg
Dr. La-Doris McClaney
Rev. Cecil L. Murray
Tina Pedersen, LCSW
Sandra Rudnick
Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Martha Trevino Powell
Dr. Harriette F. Williams

APPROVED MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **November 16, 2009**, in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim accounting or transcription of events at this meeting.**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Patricia Curry	Rev. Cecil L. Murray
Carol O. Biondi	Steven M. Olivas, Esq.
Ann Franzen	Sandra Rudnick
Susan F. Friedman	Stacey Savelle
Helen A. Kleinberg	Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Dr. La-Doris McClaney	Tina Pedersen, LCSW
Martha Trevino Powell	Dr. Harriette F. Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:05 a.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Self introductions were made.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **November 16, 2009**

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Vice Chair Savelle, the Agenda for November 16, 2009, was unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Curry reported the following:

- The December 7, 2009, Commission meeting will be held at the Optimist Youth Homes (Optimist) in Los Angeles, CA, followed by the Commission's Annual Holiday Lunch. Commissioner Franzen has volunteered to assist with the

500 West Temple Street, Hall of Administration, Room B-22, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Phone: 213/974-1558 Fax: 213/625-5813

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coordination of the Holiday Lunch, and will contact Commission members to request donations.

- The following items are tentatively scheduled for the December 7, 2009 Commission meeting:
 - Presentation, facilitated by Optimist, of a panel of youths who will express needs and concerns, and offer recommendations to enhance services for youths who are in care of children and youth protective services.
 - Presentation by DCFS on the Georgetown Breakthrough Series. Ms. Cassandra Turner, Liaison, DCFS will confirm availability of DCFS presenters.
 - Presentation by Commissioner Biondi on the Missouri Model.
- Commission Staff will coordinate a meeting of the Chair and Committee Chairs to discuss the Committee joint meetings, goals, and objectives for 2010.
- The State announced that it will cut approximately \$1.4 million in funding that provides support to the Los Angeles County Independent Living Program (ILP) for emancipated youth; efforts are being made to restore this funding.

At the request of Chair Curry, Ms. Cassandra Turner, DCFS Liaison, reported that there was a proposed 10% reduction in Foster Family Agency and Group Homes signed by the Governor on July 28, 2009, which required certain rates paid in the foster care program to be decreased effective October 1, 2009. On November 4, 2009, the District Court issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) directing the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to halt implementation of the reduction pending a hearing on the Alliance's request for a preliminary injunction. Director Ploehn will provide more information on this issue at the December 7, 2009, Commission meeting.

V. PRESENTATION

- **Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) – Harvey Kawasaki, DCFS, Dr. Jacqueline McCroskey, USC (School of Social Work), Dr. Peter J. Pecora, Casey Family Programs and University of Washington**

Dr. Jacqueline McCroskey, USC (School of Social Work), Dr. Peter J. Pecora, Casey Family Programs and University of Washington, and Mr. Harvey Kawasaki, DCFS, presented a report, distributed copies of the *“Prevention Initiative Demonstration Project (PIDP) Year One Evaluation Summary Report Expanded Executive Summary”* along with other documents regarding the PIDP ([Copies on file](#)), and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Action Taken:

The Commission Received and Filed the report on PIDP.

In addition, the Commission recommended the following:

- The Probation Department should be encouraged to participate in the Community Level Change Model (PIDP network) as delinquency and dependency are key components to Child Welfare.
- DCFS should incorporate community based approaches similar to those identified in the PIDP into their strategic plan.
- PIDP should identify the dollar amounts that are going to the each of the eight Service Planning Areas.

VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **2008-09 Annual Report (*Commissioner Sorkin's Recommendation to Approve the Draft Annual Report*)**

Commissioner Sorkin reported that 11 of 15 Commissioners participated in the development of the 2008-09 Annual Report, which documents the Commission's accomplishments for the period of July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. In preparation for this report, she reviewed approximately 17 prior annual reports.

Motion #1:

Commissioner Rudnick made a motion recommending that the last sentence of the first paragraph in the *Juvenile Court Psychotropic Medication Authorization Committee* section be amended to read as follows: "The Commission is diligent in its efforts to oversee ~~and monitor~~ the new systems designed to appropriately monitor the prescribing, distribution and oversight of children taking these medications and advocated strongly for the changes in the protocol."

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Rudnick, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved this recommendation.

Motion #2:

Vice Chair Friedman made a motion recommending that the *Child Fatality Committee* section of the report be amended by adding the following statement after the first paragraph: While we identified systemic failures relative to these cases, we found obstacles in reporting the information to the Board.

Discussion Items Continued

Commissioner Kleinberg made a suggestion to include this statement after the second paragraph which was accepted by Vice Chair Friedman.

Vice Chair Olivas offered an amendment to Vice Chair Friedman's recommendation requesting that "**systemic failure**" be changed to "**systemic problems**", which was accepted by Vice Chair Friedman.

Action Taken:

On motion of Vice Chair Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Biondi, and duly carried (Commissioner Sorkin voting no; and Commissioner Franzen abstaining), the Commission approved this recommendation, as amended by Vice Chair Olivas and Commissioner Kleinberg.

Motion #3:

Vice Chair Savelle made a motion recommending that the location of the centerfold (*25 Years of Advocacy & Achievement*) be changed in a way so that it does not disrupt the reading of the report.

Action Taken:

On motion of Vice Chair Savelle, seconded by Vice Chair Friedman, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved this recommendation.

Motion #4:

Vice Chair Savelle made a motion recommending that the third paragraph in the *Child Fatality Committee* section be amended to revise the second bullet as follows:

- Linking children and youth to mental health assessments, evaluations, and treatment services in a timely manner, **and following up to ensure contact.**

Action Taken:

On motion of Vice Chair Savelle, seconded by Commissioner Sorkin, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved this recommendation.

Motion #5:

Vice Chair Savelle made a motion recommending that the third paragraph in the *Child Fatality Committee* section be amended to add the following bullet:

- **Request that when the Children's Special Investigation Unit is formed, they review the cross-over cases that this Committee reviewed.**

Discussion Items Continued

Action Taken:

After discussion, the Commission unanimously decided not to include this language at this time but discuss this issue further at a future meeting.

Motion #6:

Vice Chair Friedman made a motion recommending that the *Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors* section be amended to add the following recommendation:

Instruct the Children's Special Investigation Unit, when formed, to investigate DCFS and Probation fatality cases.

Action Taken:

On motion of Vice Chair Friedman, seconded by Commissioner Rudnick, and duly carried (Commissioner Sorkin voting no; Commissioner Franzen abstaining), the Commission approved this recommendation.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Kleinberg, seconded by Vice Chair Olivas, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the 2008-09 Annual Report with the following amendments:

- Amended the last sentence of the first paragraph in the *Juvenile Court Psychotropic Medication Authorization Committee* section be amended to read as "The Commission is diligent in its efforts to oversee ~~and monitor~~ the **new** systems designed to appropriately monitor the prescribing, distribution and oversight of children taking these medications **and advocated strongly for the changes in the protocol.**
- Added the following statement after the second paragraph in the *Child Fatality Committee* section:

"While we identified systemic problems relative to these cases, we found obstacles in reporting the information to the Board."
- Changed the location of the centerfold so that it does not disrupt the reading of the report.
- Amended the third paragraph in the *Child Fatality Committee* section to read as "Linking children and youth to mental health assessments, evaluations, and treatment services in a timely manner, **and following up to ensure contact.**"

Discussion Items Continued

- Added the following recommendation in the *Recommendations to the Board of Supervisors* section:

“Instruct the Children’s Special Investigation Unit, when formed, to investigate DCFS and Probation fatality cases.”

- **2010 Meeting Schedule**

Chair Curry distributed the 2010 General Meeting schedule and made the following recommendations:

- Cancel the January 4, 2010 and January 18, 2010 and reschedule them to January 11th and January 25th respectively.

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg, and unanimously carried, this recommendation was approved.

- Cancel the meeting scheduled for February 15, 2009, and reschedule the meeting to Monday, February 22, 2009.

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Kleinberg, seconded by Vice Chair Friedman, and unanimously carried, this recommendation was approved.

- **LA County Child Wellness Policy (*Recommendation to approve a letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Child Wellness*)**

Commissioner Sorkin distributed a revised letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Child Wellness and noted the following changes:

- The date of letter was changed from November 9, 2009 to November 16, 2009.
- The word “Workgroup” in Paragraph 3, last sentence was revised to “Work Group.”
- The date referenced in paragraph 4, first sentence was changed from December 15, 2008 to December 18, 2008.

Discussion Items Continued

- The following paragraph was added after paragraph 4:
The Commission further supports Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Michael Antonovich's Motion (Revised Agenda No. 3)—A Leadership Agenda to Support Policies Related to Nutrition, Physical Activity, Obesity Prevention and Smoking Prevention and Cessation—to be discussed by your Board on November 17, 2009. We commend your Board for seeking the "Communities Putting Prevention to Work" American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant. We agree that this provides Los Angeles County with the opportunity to enhance prevention efforts as well as strengthen its core public health mission.

Commissioner Kleinberg recommended that Paragraph 4 (the Commission's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors) be moved within the letter to appear as paragraph 2, and that copies of the letter dated December 18, 2008, to the Board of Supervisors regarding Childhood Obesity be enclosed.

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commission Kleinberg, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the revised letter to the Board of Supervisors regarding Child Wellness, as amended.

- ***Training on Healthy Lifestyles (Recommendation to Co-Sponsor Training on Healthy Lifestyles for Relative Caregivers)***

Chair Sorkin reported that three Commission Committees (Childhood Wellness, Relative Caregiver, and Faith-Based) are working with the City of Pasadena Public Health Department and DCFS to provide a Community Wellness & Healthy Lifesyles Program for Relative Caregivers in December. This program facilitator, who is the Physical Fitness and Nutrition Coordinator for the City of Pasadena Public Health Department, has agreed to provide training at no cost to DCFS or the Commission. The event is tentatively programmed to take place in Pasadena (SPA 3) in a Faith-based facility. A draft flyer was provided by Commissioner Sorkin ([copies on file](#)). It is anticipated that these trainings for relative caregivers will be held in other SPAs.

Action Taken:

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commission Kleinberg, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to co-sponsor the training on Healthy Lifestyles for Relative Caregivers.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

None given.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public speakers.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

X. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 11:45 a.m.